

Appl. No. 10/647,169
Reply to Office Action of March 11, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Form PTO-2038 authorizing the sum of \$100.00 is attached to cover the Patent Office fee for two extra claims over 20. If any further fees are required, authorization is given to charge same against Account No. 06-1378.

Claims 11 and 12 are original claims 11 and 12 amended to be independent.

Newly submitted claims 15 to 23 are method claims dependent on claim 11 and are based on the content of original claims 2 to 10 respectively. Original claims 1-10 are canceled.

Newly submitted claims 24 to 32 are method claims dependent on claim 12 and are based on the content of original claims 2 to 10 respectively.

None of the art related rejections was applied to method claims 11-14, except for issues of double patenting. With the cancellation of claims 1-10, only method claims remain and the art-related rejections are thereby avoided.

Concerning the double-patenting rejections, it is requested that the Patent Office policy of allowing an application where the only rejection is a provisional rejection, be followed. A double patenting rejection can then be made in appropriate application(s) (MPEP § 804). If necessary, a Terminal Disclaimer will be filed herein, but it appears unnecessary at this time.

To reduce the possibility that the cited art will be applied to the present claims, applicants provide the following information:

The Reference JP2000-256571 describes "thermosetting resin composition". There is no description in JP2000-256571 to use the thermosetting resin composition for a photocurable ink-jet ink.

On the other hand, the amended claims 11 and 12 of the present invention each has a specific feature of comprising the steps of:

jetting a droplet of a photocurable ink comprising an oxetane compound having a substituent at the 2-position
the molecule from an ink-jet head onto a recording material;
and

irradiating the jetted droplet of the ink with an active ray.

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The above-described two steps are not taught nor suggested by JP2000-256571. Thus, it does not apply to the present method claims.

A sworn translation of each of the priority applications is filed herewith to predate Nishizeki for the present claims, if necessary.

The Reference WO 02/36660 only describes oxetane compound which can be used for "coatings, inks, laminates, glues, dental materials and various binder and other resinous composition" (page 1, line 14 to 15 of WO 02/36660). WO 02/36660 does not teach nor suggest to use an oxetane compound having a substituent at the 2-position of the molecule for a photocurable ink-jet ink.

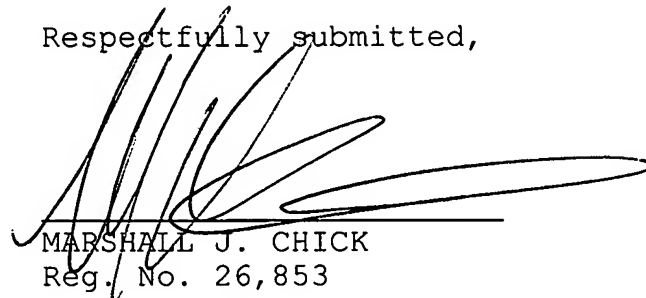
In addition, applicants refer to the enclosed DECLARATION reporting experimental results to show that the ink described in Examples of WO 02/36660 cannot be used for an ink-jet ink.

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In view of the above, it is submitted that the present invention is not shown or suggested by the cited art. Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Frishauf, Holtz, Goodman
& Chick, P.C.
767 Third Ave., 25th Floor
New York, NY 10017-2023
Tel. No. (212) 319-4900
Fax No.: (212) 319-5101
MJC/ld

Respectfully submitted,



MARSHALL J. CHICK
Reg. No. 26,853

Enc. Executed DECLARATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.132 of Atsushi NAKAJIMA
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English Translation of Japanese Patent Priority Documents
Nos. 252356/2002; 252357/2002; 2523588/2002, 252360/2002
and 252363/2002

Form PTO-2038 for \$100 for two extra dependent claims
over 20